

from Indiana has said, and in view of the fact that a good deal of this lack of authorization rests with the other body, I might suggest to the gentleman from Missouri that instead of asking for a 60-day extension he ask for an 8-month extension and then we can all go home next week.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

Mr. BECKER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I raised this issue last week. As we go along waiting for these appropriation bills I say to the gentleman from Missouri that we seem to have fewer and fewer Members present. It seems to me that there should be some order in the House so that the Members would know what they were going to do, instead of having a situation where each week, we stay down here and take up some simple little bill, such as we had yesterday, on which I think there was one single vote in opposition. Why could not these matters be considered within 1 week's time and let us get something done?

Mr. LAIRD. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BECKER. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. LAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the chairman, the gentleman from Missouri, in his statement with regard to the delay of the appropriation bills thus far. The only reason there has been a delay in the appropriation bills is the fact that the authorizations have not cleared the other body. We could not get the independent offices bill, which is under the leadership of the gentleman from Texas [Mr. THOMAS], over here on the floor until just a week ago because the space agency authorization had not passed. As far as the foreign aid authorization bill is concerned it has not passed the other body as yet.

I would like to state, however, that I believe it would be better for us in the House to extend this resolution only for 30 days in order to keep some heat on the other body so that they will get these authorizations out and act upon them. But I support my chairman, the gentleman from Missouri, in his explanation of why these bills have not come out. Certainly it is the lack of authorizations.

Mr. BECKER. Mr. Speaker, I want to continue with this subject because it is all important. It does not make any difference which House is responsible. I think it is the responsibility of the majority party to see that these matters are taken care of, that the authorization bills are enacted, whether it is in the other body or in this body. It is not the responsibility of the minority party. I am not criticizing my good friend from Missouri, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, but I think the majority party has a great responsibility to the people of this country to see to it that the appropriation bills are on this floor by June 30 and acted upon. We do not know today how much the departments of the Government are spending. We do not know how much foreign aid is being distributed, because last

year they had an appropriation of something over \$4 billion and they can continue to spend at that rate this year under these continuing resolutions.

I think it is a matter of party responsibility. The President asked for a Democratic Congress. He got it. Why do they not act responsibly and get on with the job?

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. FORD. Because there has been some lapse between the time the gentleman from Missouri made his request and now, may we have his request repeated?

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Missouri repeat his request for the benefit of the gentleman from Michigan and other Members?

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, there remain three of the annual supply bills yet undisposed of; the appropriation bill for military construction, the appropriation bill for foreign aid, and the appropriation for public works. Hearings have been practically completed on all of them. We can report them at any time we have authorizations.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to consider on Monday next a continuing resolution continuing the present status for 30 days, ending December 1, 1963.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. JENSEN reserved all points of order on the resolution.

CORRECTION OF VOTE

Mr. OLSEN of Montana. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 172 I am recorded as not voting. I was present and voted "aye." I ask unanimous consent that the permanent Record and Journal be corrected accordingly.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Montana?

There was no objection.

COMMITTEE ON THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. WHITENER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the District of Columbia be permitted to sit during general debate today.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

HOT PURSUIT

(Mr. CRAMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday on the anniversary of the missile crisis, a U.S.-owned ship was strafed by

a Communist Cuban plane for a period of 61 minutes, with no relief coming from the U.S. Air Force until a substantial time had lapsed, and after this 61-minute strafing had passed. This strafing took place between 12:40 and 1:40 a.m., on October 22. I repeat, our air-planes did not arrive until after the strafing had taken place.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling for a thorough investigation of the unconscionable delay in reaching the scene of the unprovoked Cuban attack on a U.S.-owned ship, less than one-half hour away from the Florida coast, and am calling on Defense Secretary McNamara to announce and to institute a hot pursuit policy as it relates to continued attacks by Cuba.

According to reports, this strafing took place for over an hour with 15 to 20 passes being made.

What has happened to McNamara's promise of adequate protection for U.S. ships, made after the last shooting incident involving the trigger-happy Cuban Air Force and an American ship, the *Floridian*?

The administration's lack of adequate protection in this vital area is a shocking example of a languid defense policy which demands an immediate investigation.

In addition, the administration should announce now a policy of hot pursuit and put Castro on notice that any further attacks will result in immediate pursuit and counterfire. Unless this is done, American lives and property on the high seas will continue to be at the whim and the mercy of the Kremlin's puppet dictator, Fidel Castro. And a stiff protest should be lodged with Khrushchev who made these attack planes available to Castro and who is supporting and sustaining the Castro Communist dictatorship only 90 miles from our shores.

This is another example of where Castro's so-called defensive weapons have become offensive.

While we are flying 15,000 troops to Europe in Operation Big Lift, we are giving no concern to Operation Little Lift in the defense of American lives and property in our own backyard, a few miles away.

CORRECTION OF RECORD

Mr. BECKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to correct the permanent Record of my remarks appearing on page 18573 on October 15, 1963.

The first word in line 6 of the third column on that page should read "minority" instead of "majority" as erroneously recorded.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

POLITICAL STATUS OF PUERTO RICO

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 549 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to move that the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5945) to establish a procedure for the prompt settlement, in a democratic manner, of the political status of Puerto Rico. After general debate, which shall be confined to the bill and shall continue not to exceed two hours, to be equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, the bill shall be read for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider the substitute amendment recommended by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs now in the bill and such substitute for the purpose of amendment shall be considered under the five-minute rule as an original bill. At the conclusion of such consideration the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted, and any member may demand a separate vote in the House on any of the amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or committee substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. Brown] and, pending that, yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 549 provides for consideration of H.R. 5945, a bill to establish a procedure for the prompt settlement, in a democratic manner, of the political status of Puerto Rico. The resolution provides an open rule with 2 hours of general debate.

The purpose of H.R. 5945, as amended by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, is to establish a United States-Puerto Rico Commission to study all factors having a bearing on the future relationship between the United States and Puerto Rico and to formulate and draft such legislative recommendations with respect thereto as it may deem advisable in the light of its study.

Since July 1952, Puerto Rico has been designated a commonwealth. However, both within and outside Puerto Rico doubt has been repeatedly expressed about the status of Puerto Rico and there is desire for clarification of the relations between it and the United States. Proposals for a change of status are also being advocated by groups within the Commonwealth.

It is believed that the first step to be taken is a full exploration of the ramifications and implications of the various proposals and of any alternatives thereto. Such an exploration should be made by a small working commission composed of members representing various points of view and with various types of background and experience. This, in substance, is what H.R. 5945 provides for.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of House Resolution 549.

Mr. MADDEN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Indiana has explained this rule. It makes in order the consideration of the bill H.R. 5945, to establish a procedure for the prompt settlement, in a democratic manner, of the political status of Puerto Rico. The rule makes in order the consideration of a committee substitute for the bill, and makes it subject to amendment as if it were an original bill. The rule also provides for 2 hours of general debate.

Very frankly, Mr. Speaker, I am not sufficiently well informed to pass sound judgment on the value of this measure, except to say it would provide for the creation of a commission to study the status of Puerto Rico, and report back at a later date some procedure they might recommend that would provide for a better way of handling the political status of Puerto Rico and the people thereof. As I read this bill, I am not convinced it will do very much good. At the same time I am not sure its passage will do a great deal of harm.

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs has devoted considerable time to this legislation. As I understand it, the bill was reported out of the committee without opposition. At least there was no minority report filed on the bill. There was no opposition expressed to the measure when it came before the Rules Committee, and, therefore, I presume both the legislative committee and the Committee on Rules support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time and yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question on the resolution. The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Mr. O'BRIEN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5945) to establish a procedure for the prompt settlement, in a democratic manner, of the political status of Puerto Rico.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill H.R. 5945, with Mr. WRIGHT in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

By unanimous consent, the first reading of the bill was dispensed with.

The CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the gentleman from New York [Mr. O'BRIEN] will be recognized for 1 hour and the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. SAYLOR] will be recognized for 1 hour.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York [Mr. O'BRIEN].

Mr. O'BRIEN of New York. Mr.

Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. ASPINALL].

Mr. ASPINALL. Mr. Chairman, H.R. 5945, as amended, is, perhaps, one of the most important pieces of legislation concerning the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and its over 2 million American citizens the House of Representatives has considered during the past 11 years.

On March 3, 1952, the people of Puerto Rico adopted, in accordance with the procedure provided in the act of July 13, 1950, a constitution for their government. This constitution designates Puerto Rico a commonwealth, the only such political entity we have in the United States. The bill which became the 1950 act, as some of us will recall, passed the House with but a single dissenting vote, that of our former colleague, the late Representative Marcantonio of New York. Puerto Rico's constitution was accepted by the people and came into force on July 25, 1952.

Since 1952 minor changes have been made in the Commonwealth Act but basically it is intact. During the 11-year period Puerto Rico has prospered and a remarkable renaissance has been experienced. I have every reason to believe that progress will continue. Questions have, however, been raised both in Puerto Rico and on the mainland about the future status of the Commonwealth. Certain changes have been recommended by the several political factions represented in the Commonwealth. About a year ago leading members of the legislative assembly met with the Governor and his cabinet members to discuss the political future of the island. Emanating from this meeting was a legislative joint resolution, dated December 3, 1962, calling on Congress to establish a procedure whereby the final political status of the people of Puerto Rico could be ascertained. A copy of this resolution is included in the Appendix of our Committee Report No. 811 on this bill.

The legislation under consideration will establish the United States-Puerto Rico Commission on the political status of Puerto Rico. The Commission will be comprised of 13 members, 7 of whom will be U.S. citizens and nonresidents of Puerto Rico. The President will appoint the Chairman and two members of the Commission. The Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, with the approval of respective majority and minority leaders of each body, will each appoint two members. The Puerto Rican Government will be invited to participate in Commission activities by the appointment of six members in a manner provided in a law of Puerto Rico enacted for this purpose. This law will also provide for sharing the expenses of the Commission which we anticipate to be not more than \$250,000, the amount authorized by H.R. 5945.

The Commission is directed to study all—and I emphasize the word "all"—factors which may have a bearing on the future relationship between the United States and Puerto Rico and to make recommendations to the President, the Congress, the Governor, and the legislative assembly on the opening day of the 1st session of the 89th Congress.